

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for correcting eliminating defects (3) at least one defect in a grain layer (2) of a full-grain leather (1), comprising applying an aqueous, optionally lightly foamed, plastics dispersion comprising small compact particles into the at least one defect, drying the leather, thereby forming a solidified plastics dispersion, and subjecting the leather to a pressure and heat treatment, with the result that hollow microspheres are at least partially formed from the small compact particles in the solidified plastics dispersion, and the at least one defect is thereby corrected a plastics compound being applied to the defects (3), wherein an aqueous, if appropriate lightly foamed, plastics dispersion which comprises very small compact particles is pressed into the defects (3) and the leather (1) is then dried, whereupon the grain layer (2) is subjected to a pressure and heat treatment, with the result that hollow microspheres (5) are at least partly formed from the compact particles in the solidified plastics dispersion.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to of claim 1, wherein the full- grain leather is cattle leather.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the applying comprises pressing the aqueous plastics dispersion is pressed into the at least one defect defects (3) by means of with an application roll having, optionally if appropriate, a finely structured surface.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process ~~according to of claim 3 any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the application roll is a counterrotating application roll.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process ~~according to of claim 1 any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the pressure and temperature treatment is effected using a pressure roll which is heated to a temperature of at least 100°C and makes contact with the grain layer (2).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 5 according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pressure roll is heated to a temperature from 120°C to 180°C.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process ~~of claim 5 according to any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the pressure roll has a finely structured surface.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process ~~of claim 1 according to any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the compact particles having have a size of less than 10 µm are used in an amount of from 15 g to 60 g, based on 1 kg of a 40% strength aqueous plastics dispersion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process ~~of claim 1 according to any of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein compact particles comprising comprise a thermoplastic, which comprise comprises a liquid blowing agent, ~~are used~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process ~~of claim 1 according to any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the compact particles which expand at a temperature below 120°C ~~are used~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the applying, drying, and subjecting are further carried out on at least one region adjacent to the at least one defect, thereby forming a solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region, and wherein, after formation of the solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region, a mixture of water and a solvent is applied to the at least one region solidified plastics dispersion and a pressure and heat treatment is then effected.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11, according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the applying comprises spraying [[a]] the mixture of water and a solvent is sprayed onto the solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region the solidified plastics dispersion and a pressure and heat treatment is then effected.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to of claim 11 either of claims 11 and 12, wherein the solvent is ethyl acetate.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11 according to either of claims 11 and 13, wherein the mixture comprises 90 parts of water and 10 parts of solvent.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 according to any of claims 1 to 14, wherein the small compact particles comprise pigmented compact particles whose color corresponds to that of the grain layer, and/or of the plastics dispersion, or a combination thereof are used.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A full-grain leather, which ~~has comprises~~, on ~~parts~~ of its grain layer, ~~defects at least one defect~~ which ~~are has been~~ corrected by ~~means of a~~ ~~applying a~~ plastics filling compound ~~to the at least one defect~~, wherein the plastics filling compound ~~consists of~~ ~~comprises~~ a solidified, aqueous plastics dispersion which [[is]] comprises hollow microspheres (5) formed from compact particles by supplying heat and is pressed into the ~~defects at least one defect~~ on application.

Claim 17 (Original): The full-grain leather according to claim 16, which is cattle leather.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The full-grain leather ~~of claim 16 according to claim 16 or 17~~, wherein the formation of the hollow microspheres (5) in the region adjacent to the ~~to the at least one defect on the surface (4) of the grain layer is greater than in the on the region surface of the grain layer further away from the at least one defect from this surface (4)~~.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the aqueous plastics dispersion is lightly foamed.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the application roll has a finely structured surface.